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CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO INSTALL AN AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE
IN AFGHANISTAN

According to the Kabul Press, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan signed an agreement whereby Czechoslovakia will furnish and install an automatic telephone exchange in Qandahar (Kandahar). The exchange will have 1,500 subscriber lines and will cost about \$158,000. 1/

COMMENT: This is another example of the success Czechoslovakia has achieved in penetrating markets for electronic and telecommunications equipment in underdeveloped areas. Politically, this transaction is significant in that during the installation period, Czechoslovakia will have access to telephone facilities in Qandahar. Economically, this transaction is significant in that the Ministry of Post and Telegraphs of Afghanistan will be dependent upon Czechoslovakia for future shipments of spare parts for this facility.

SOURCE: Commerce, Office of Economic Affairs. Weekly Economic
Developments Abroad, 10 Oct 58, p 5. U. Eval Doc.

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